



2026 Volunteer Policy

USRowing Owned Regattas

Overview

Volunteers are a critical component of all regattas. Our sport's sustainability and success rely heavily on these dedicated supporters, who help ensure that our rowers, teams, coaches, spectators, and more have a safe, fair, and rewarding experience.

This policy is intended to provide additional volunteer support to Local Organizing Committees (LOCs) at USRowing-owned regattas, addressing the growing challenge of sourcing, securing, and training enough volunteers. USRowing's volunteer policy, that was started in 2023, will assist LOCs by providing them with informed volunteers who already plan to attend a USRowing-owned regatta. USRowing welcomes spectators, team parents, siblings, family members, friends, coaches, athletes, and more to volunteer at our regattas. Thank you in advance for your partnership in support of our sport's future!

For questions regarding this policy, please contact

Competition@usrowing.org.

Requirements

- For every USRowing-owned regatta, with the exception of high-performance regattas, every registered team will be required to provide at least one (1) volunteer.
 - One 4–6-hour shift during the regatta.
 - An exception to this rule is an Unaffiliated single sculler, i.e. the competitor is not considered to be representing an organization

and therefore does not need to provide a volunteer during the regatta.

- If a team has under two (2) entries in the regatta, the team is not required to provide a volunteer.

Volunteers will be required to take training provided by USRowing and/or the Local Organizing Committee, which may vary by venue. See the Training section below for more information.

- Different positions require different physical and intellectual abilities. A full explanation will be provided in the LOC(s) volunteer sign up platform.
- Each team is required to register their volunteer through the signup platform provided by the LOC, by the event's final entry deadline.
- Prior to the start of racing, USRowing will send reminders through the regatta messaging system to any teams that have not yet registered a volunteer.
- **NEW for 2026:** Teams that have not registered for their required volunteer shift by the final day of the entry deadline may be prevented from competing at a USRowing-owned regatta until a volunteer shift is signed up for.

Process

- During regatta registration, each team must provide their one volunteer and sign up on the volunteer platform provided by the LOC.
- One week before the regatta, USRowing will send a reminder to all teams, identifying those who have not yet registered and provide instructions on how and where to complete volunteer registration.
- One week before the first practice day of the event, each volunteer will receive an email from the Local Organizing Committee with further instructions for their volunteer shift. (see Training section below).

- The day prior to on-site registration opening, USRowing will send a reminder to all teams, identifying those who have not yet registered and provide instructions on how and where to complete their volunteer registration.
- When a volunteer arrives at the venue, they will check in and out at the volunteer station or designated area.
- Volunteers will have access to the volunteer hospitality area for refreshments throughout their shift.
- All communication regarding shift changes will be communicated through the Local Organizing Committee.

Training

We value volunteers for their willingness to contribute their time and effort to the success of the regatta. Assisting at one of our regattas is an opportunity not just to give back to the sport, but also to learn more about regatta operations while applying general skills like communication, teamwork, and task management.

USRowing and the Local Organizing Committee will provide the following training materials to help you have a successful and rewarding volunteer experience:

Volunteer Summary/Platform

The Volunteer Summary/Platform provides a breakdown of each volunteer station and position, including a summary description, responsibilities, and other role expectations. Volunteers should review this prior to selecting their preferred role(s). This will be provided by the LOC(s).

Athletes & Coaches Pre-Regatta Meeting

Volunteers are strongly encouraged to attend this meeting held before their regatta. It covers regatta rules and procedures, practice schedule, course maps, and other information critical to a successful regatta. At this time, coaches, athletes, and coxswains are allotted time to ask regatta specific questions. These meetings typically take place one (1) week in advance of the regatta.

The specific date and time will be shared out no later than one month prior to the regatta start date. For those volunteers who cannot attend, the recording link will be sent out immediately following the meeting.

Entry Packet

Volunteers are strongly encouraged to review the entry packet for their regatta. This packet contains important dates & schedules, registration/competition/entry information, the Rules of Rowing, awards details, venue details, and important contacts. Volunteers will receive the entry packet for their regatta along with the details for the coaches and coxswains meeting.

Additional Training/ License Requirements

Volunteers may be asked to complete additional training such as Diversity, Equity and Inclusion training, or may be asked to present the necessary license to do volunteer tasks such as launch driving. All information/additional requirements will be included in the LOC Volunteer Packet/Summary that each volunteer will have prior to signing up for a shift.

SafeSport Requirements.

Volunteers must read and understand the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (MAAPP), their club's Safe Sport policy, and how to report if they see a violation of misconduct. This includes volunteer positions such as

parking attendants, commission control, stake boat holders, hospitality, launch drivers, etc. Volunteers are required to visit this link to sign the digital form acknowledging that they have read and understand the MAAPP policy.

Volunteers who only have incidental and observable contact with Minor Athletes are encouraged to take the Center's brief *Volunteer* course before engaging or interacting with any amateur athletes who are minors.

All others in volunteer support positions who have Regular Contact with or authority over amateur athletes who are minors are required to take the *SafeSport Trained Core* or *Refresher* courses. Please review USRowing's [SafeSport page](#) to determine if you are required to take training.

Volunteers should also be familiar with [Athlete Safety Procedures](#) for USRowing Event Organizers.